IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1, 13 and 14 are being amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject invention, all as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A magnetic head comprising a perpendicular recording head, wherein:

the perpendicular recording head comprises a main pole having an air-bearing surface, and a first yoke connected to the main pole;

a volume of the first yoke is larger than a volume of the main pole; and

the main pole has four sides including a trailing side, a leading side, a first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and a second side substantially parallel to the tracking direction,

the leading side, the first side and the second side have faces tapering to the air-bearing surface of the main pole, whereas the trailing side does not include a tapering face.

2. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, wherein the main pole is connected to the first yoke substantially at the center of the principal plane having the widest area in the yoke.

3. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, wherein a coil of at lest one turn for exciting magnetic fluxes in the main pole is formed around the main pole.

4. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a reproduction head having a magneto-resistive element, wherein the reproduction head has a second yoke formed, which introduces magnetic fluxes leaked from the perpendicular recording medium.

5. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 4, wherein the magneto-resistive element is formed in parallel to the tip surface of the main pole.

6. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the second yoke is composed of two separate magnetic substances; and

the magnetic substances are each provided on the trailing side and the leading side of the reproduction head.

7. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 4, wherein the first yoke also serves as the second yoke.

8. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least more than one of a side on the leading side of the second yoke, a first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and a second side opposite to the first side, substantially parallel to the tracking direction are slanted against the vertical direction.

9. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

in the magnetic substance located on the trailing side, at least one or more sides of a side on the trailing side, a first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and a second side opposite to the first side, substantially parallel to the tracking direction are slanted against the vertical direction; and

in the magnetic substance located on the leading side, at least one or more sides of a side on the leading side, the first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and the second side opposite to the first side, substantially parallel to the tracking direction are slanted against the vertical direction.

10. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, wherein an angle θ formed by the tip surface of the main pole and the side of the main pole located on the leading side is not smaller than 25° and not larger than 65°.

11. (Previously Presented) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, wherein an angle formed between the first side of the main pole and a face perpendicular to a recording medium or the second side of the main pole and the face perpendicular to the recording medium is 20° or less.

12. (Original) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio V2/V1 of a volume V1 of the main pole against a volume V2 of the first yoke is 10 or over.

13. (Currently Amended) A magnetic disk drive comprising: at least a magnetic perpendicular recording medium having a soft magnetic backing layer and a recording layer on a substrate, and a perpendicular recording head, wherein:

the perpendicular recording head comprises a main pole having an air-bearing surface, and a first yoke connected to the main pole;

a volume of the first yoke is larger than a volume of the main pole; and

the main pole has four sides including a trailing side, a leading side, a first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and a second side substantially parallel to the tracking direction,

the leading side, the first side and the second side have faces tapering to the air-bearing surface of the main pole, whereas the trailing side does not include a tapering face.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head having a perpendicular recording head, wherein the perpendicular recording head has a main pole having an air-bearing surface, and a first yoke connected to the main pole a volume of the first yoke is larger than a volume of the main pole; and the main pole has four sides including a trailing side, a leading side, a first side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, and a second side substantially parallel to the tracking direction, the leading side, the first side and the second side have faces tapering to the air-bearing surface of the main pole, the method comprising: an etching step that forms a taper shape from a side facing the medium toward a substrate at least on the leading side of the tip of the main pole, and a flattening step that forms the side facing the medium substantially in parallel to a substrate surface, whereby the main pole is formed, whereas the trailing side does not include a tapering face.

15. (Original) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising a step of forming an exciting coil that turns on a plane substantially parallel to the substrate surface or the side facing the medium, whereby the main pole is formed.